

May 20, 1948.

Dr. Orville, Wyss,  
Dept. Bacteriology,  
University of Texas,  
Austin.

Dear Dr. Wyss,

It was a pleasure to make the acquaintance of your wife and yourself at the Minneapolis meetings. I hope that we may have an opportunity sometime to discuss at greater leisure than is possible at so hectic a gathering some of the many problems in which we seem to share an interest.

With respect to two or three of these, may I ask your help now?

Firstly, I should be pleased to see the K.A. thesis (which you mentioned at the meeting) which contains data relevant to recombination in *Staphylococcus*. One of my colleagues in the *Brucella abortus* program here is making an attempt to use drug-resistance factors for a recombination test in this organism.

Also, when you are ready, Could you advise me as to your procedures and results in your study of the influence of ultra-violet irradiation on factor exchange in *E. coli* K-12 mutants. If there are any additional stocks that would be useful to you, please let me know. Have you considered the possibility of recombination of lethal factors in this study? If these played a role, one might expect some disturbance in the linkage relationships, perhaps a selective recovery of multiple crossover types, although I have not yet worked out the expectations consequent to a random placement of lethal mutations.

Finally, I should of course be anxious to hear of your results on transformations especially in *E. coli*. As I may have told you at Minneapolis, Tatum and I have been unable to find anything of the sort in Boivin's *coli* strains, in which he had reported a transformation of antigenic type. However, there is considerable question as to the true identity of the strains in our possession, and our inquiries to Boivin have not as yet been answered.

With best regards to Mrs. Wyss and to Prof. Stone,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Assistant Professor of Genetics.